

# MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207



SPRING 2023

## 'My Plan, My Story' Videos Highlight Career Experiences



**One of the hallmarks of a District 207 education as it works to get it right for every student is to provide multiple meaningful career experiences while in high school.**

These types of experiences might include a classroom guest speaker, career trek, job shadow, internship and/or partnership with a business where students participate in real world projects.

In addition to robust learning experiences, these opportunities assist students in making decisions about plans after graduation that might include a certification program, an apprenticeship, a path directly to work, a two-year degree program or a four-year degree program.

***“ Business partners regularly share how impressed they are at the high quality of students from District 207. ”***

In order to provide these opportunities, District 207 has more than 800 business partners. Any business interested in partnering with District 207 should complete a partnership interest form at [bit.ly/D207partner](https://bit.ly/D207partner). Business partners regularly share how impressed they are at the high quality of students from District 207. Certainly business partners provide assistance to students but many are surprised at the benefit the partnership provides to their business.

Providing career experiences helps students understand more clearly what career or course of study they want to pursue. While many students confirm their passion through career experiences, others learn the very valuable lesson about what they are not interested in so they can continue to search for their purpose after high school. ■

*District 207 has documented many career experience stories through a series of videos titled 'My Plan, My Story' which are available on the District 207 YouTube page located at [bit.ly/myplanmystory](https://bit.ly/myplanmystory).*



## New Approach to Teaching Mathematics Shows Encouraging Results

District 207 is known for its innovative approaches to teaching and learning to ensure all students are provided with access to a high quality education. In an attempt to increase learning and retention, while also providing an opportunity for all students to access a highly rigorous curriculum, the district has implemented an integrated mathematics approach.

This changes how mathematics has traditionally been sequenced: Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2. Integrated mathematics re-imagines these courses as Math 1, Math 2 and Math 3. This allows for algebraic, geometric and statistical thinking to be embedded throughout all three courses rather than being separated out with limited connection between the concepts.

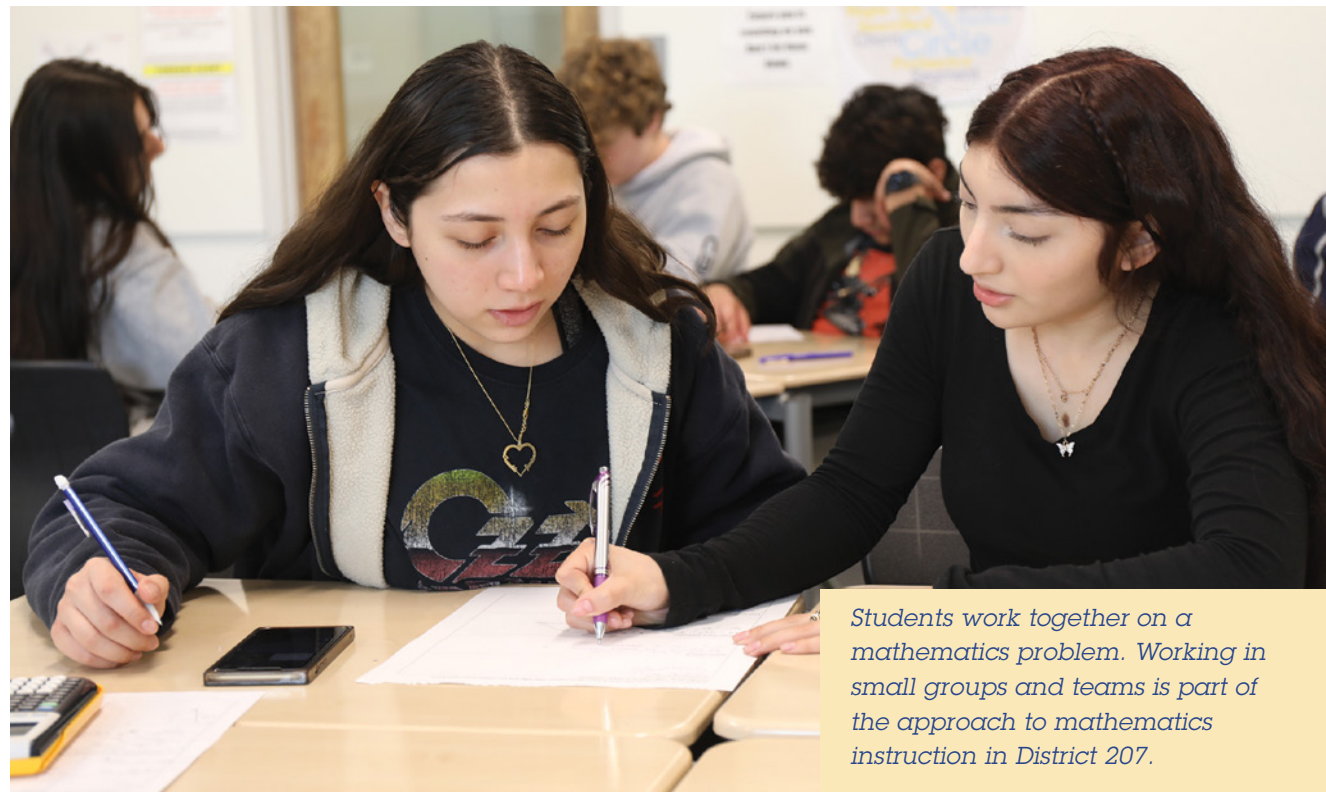
**The approach means content is coherently sequenced to emphasize mathematical connections, the application of mathematical ideas to everyday situations and problem-solving.**

Much of the K-8 mathematics curriculum has been organized in this way for years to allow for spiraling of concepts. The goal is to support the continued practice of mathematical skills and concepts to help ensure they are embedded in students' long-term memory.

Many high-achieving countries around the world use this approach that is based on key recommendations from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (NCSM).

One of the ways in which District 207 has assessed the impact of the change is through the use of a classroom walkthrough tool. Since the 2018-2019 school year (one year prior to launching the changes), the following notable improvements have been observed:

- Increase in teachers posing high quality questions/problems that prompt students to share their thinking.



*Students work together on a mathematics problem. Working in small groups and teams is part of the approach to mathematics instruction in District 207.*



*Students work collaboratively at the whiteboard as part of a mathematics lesson. The new mathematics sequencing in District 207 has resulted in additional access for students to the highly rigorous curriculum.*

- Increase in students sharing their developing thinking, along with an increase in students elaborating with a second sentence.
- Increase in teachers cultivating trusting relationships in the mathematics classroom.
- Increase in student work including revisions or revised explanations/justifications.

Prior to the integrated math program, just 90% of incoming general education 9th graders accessed the rigorous college prep math classes. Of those 90%, only about 83% earned credit. **In the first year of the program, access grew to 100% of general education 9th grade students taking college-prep math classes with approximately 95% earning credit.**

Additionally, following an initial dip in SAT scores after the pandemic (similar to virtually every area high school), last year a cohort of 11th graders, which included a majority of students who had taken all three years of the revised mathematics sequence, posted a 5.1% increase in SAT scores over the previous year.

Following the Math 1, 2 and 3 sequence, students have the option of taking pre-calculus or other mathematics elective offerings, including dual-credit courses and Advanced Placement Statistics. AP Calculus AB and AP Calculus BC are still offered, along with Multivariable Calculus and Differential Equations. Additionally, District 207 recently launched a Data Science course given the increasing importance of data analysis in many different career areas.

“An important area of focus for the district has been to increase access,” says Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Innovation Dr. Shawn Messmer. “We now have 100% of our general education students accessing high level mathematics with a higher percentage of those students earning a passing grade than in the past. By breaking down barriers, so many more students have access to rigorous content and instructional experiences. This sets students up for success after high school whether that is in college, trade school, an apprenticeship or immediately transitioning to the workforce.” ■



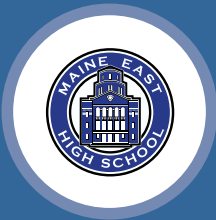
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## State Honors Several in District 207

A total of 13 individuals and teams from District 207 were honored as part of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Those Who Excel program and Teacher of the Year program this year. The program aims to recognize the best in the education profession in Illinois.

Frost Academy Principal Anna Hamilton (administrator category), Maine East School Nurse Kathy Klein (student support personnel category) and the Maine West Student and Family Services team (team category) all earned awards of excellence.



**Anna Hamilton**

Maine South teacher Carrie Saurer and Maine West teacher Kristin Mazanowski each earned meritorious service awards in the teacher program.



**Kathy Klein**

Maine East World Languages Department Chair Sharon Baima (administrator category), Community Volunteer Maureen Hartwig (volunteer category), Maine South Administrative Assistant Christine Bednarek (educational support personnel category), Maine West School Psychologist Dr. Sandy Flores-Rodriguez (student support personnel category) and the District 207 Integrated Math Team (team category) each earned awards of meritorious service.

Maine East teacher Cassandra Cowperthwaite received a meritorious service award and Maine West teacher Kacey Carpenter earned special recognition in the Early Career Educator category that recognizes teachers who have less than five years experience.

Maine West Family Outreach Coordinator Crista Adams (educational support personnel) was awarded special recognition. ■